



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1944.

This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Infectious Disease

One case of Smallpox occurred at Nether Compton on the 1st April, 1944 and steps were immediately taken to prevent the spread of infection. The patient was removed to Foyle Hill Smallpox Hospital, Shaftesbury. All contacts were traced and vaccinated within forty-eight hours and disinfection of the house carried out. The patient made a very good recovery and no further cases occurred. Chicken Pox was made notifiable for a period of three months. Beyond this no particular remarks are called for in connection with the incidence of other infectious disease. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year, clinics being arranged at the schools from time to time.

At the 31st December 88% of children of school age and 56% of children under school age had received treatment.

Scabies

The incidence of Scabies was small throughout the year.

Meat Inspection

The Council's Sanitary Inspector continued his appointment as Assistant Meat Inspector to the Sherborne Urban District Council and matters have been satisfactory.

Venereal Disease

No cases of Venereal Disease were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Evacuation

The Beeches Hostel has been used throughout the year, largely for children difficult to billet, such as bed-wetters etc. The Psychiatrist has attended regularly, and the Hostel has proved of great value.

Water Supplies

The quality of public water supplies remained satisfactory, but that of private supplies was not so good in general. In quantity there was a general shortage during dry weather as far as public supplies were concerned, but there were few instances of shortage in the private supplies. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken quarterly of the Council's supplies and were generally satisfactory. In accordance with the direction of the

Ministry of Health these supplies were chlorinated.

Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the population and $\frac{2}{3}$ the dwelling houses are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, and a small proportion is supplied by means of standpipes outside the houses.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers throughout the year.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer
of Health.

11th June, 1945.